

"MEMPHIS PUBLIC LEDGER"

January 8, 1872

SCHOOL HOUSE OPENING

**The new Building on the Corner of Market and Third Streets
Formally Opened--Interesting Ceremonies, etc.**

The new school-house on Market street was visited yesterday afternoon by the Mayor, General Council, School Board, leading citizens and members of the Press, on an invitation extended by the Board of Education.

The Building

The building is situated on the north west corner of Third and Market streets. A three-story brick, it is finished externally in what is known as the Italian style of architecture, resembling somewhat the ancient Doric. The building is ninety-five feet in length by seventy-two feet in width, and presents a neat, not to say imposing, appearance. Commenced about one year since, the erection of it has been under the immediate supervision of Messrs. C. S. Fenner, H. J. Wiggins and Dr. R. P. Bateman, who comprise the building committee of the Board of Education. The cost of the structure, including furnaces, glazing, painting, etc., is just \$45,000.

In the basement are located the furnaces, four in number. They are placed in an arched, fire-proof brick vault. Near them is a coal room, intended for the reception of coal enough to run the furnaces during the season.

Immediately above and on the ground floor are four of the school rooms. The study-rooms are twelve in number, and are finished the same in every way; twenty-six feet by thirty-three. The rooms are fourteen feet in the clear from the floor to the ceiling, thus furnishing ample room for the scholars. A blackboard extends along the sides of each room, fastened to the wall just above a wainscotting some four feet in height. There are four windows to each room, every one of which has an iron net-work fender, to keep the little innocents from falling and breaking

Continuation: School House Opening

their precious necks while peering from the window. Attached to each study-room is what is known as the "wardrobe room." These are small rooms, about eightfeet by twenty, with pigeon holes for hats, wherewith the children may remove that real estate which usually forms such a prominent part in the get up of all school children. Each room is warmed by the furnace, and thoroughly ventilated by air shafts that connect with a large ventilator on the roof. The rooms are arranged four to a story. At the head of the first flight of stairs is located the Principal's room. It has speaking tubes leading to every room in the building, by which the Principal can communicate with every room without leaving his room. A small room known as the "library-room," is located at the head of the fifth flight of stairs, and between the second and third stories. This and the Principal's room, like the study rooms, are well ventilated, and heated by hot air from the furnaces. A neat wash-room for the male teachers is located on the first floor, while immediately over the library room, and on the third floor, is a similar one, intended for the use of the lady teachers. Both rooms are fitted with all modern conveniences, and both the children's wash-rooms have an ample supply of water furnished by a force pump. In the third story the study-rooms are arranged with immense sliding doors, so as to throw the two rooms into one, and thus furnish a room fifty-six by thirty-three feet, large enough and suitable for lectures or exhibitions.

The halls are large and commodious, offering ample room for the throng of children that will frequent them. The stair cases are arranged with platforms so as to preclude the possibility of the children falling and injuring themselves.

After examining the building from cellar to attic, the visitors assembled in the study-room on the third floor. Dr. R. B. Maury was called to the chair and speeches were made by the Doctor, T. R. Smith, Mayor Johnson, W. S. Bruce, Wm. R. Moore, M. V. Holbrook and Dr. Fenner. The latter closed his speech in a brilliant peroration, suggesting refreshments in an adjoining room. Soon the pepping of Piper Heidsieck and red cross champagne corks disturbed the educational echoes of the hall. The collation was disposed of and the success of education was quaffed in foaming wine. After the repast Mr. Jones, one of the architects, and Mr. Juniper, one of the contractors, made characteristic talks to the assembled visitors.

Continuation: School House Opening

The school was opened for the reception of pupils this fore-noon. It will, for the present, be for boys and girls, and is capable of accommodating six hundred children. The corps of teachers is as follows: Room no. 4, for girls, Miss Mary Cairns; room no. 5, for girls, Mrs. Mary Hines; room no. 6, Mr. Timothy Sweeney; room no. 7, Miss Annie Reudehuber; room no. 8, Mrs. Mary Reilly; room no. 9, Miss Annie Phelan; room no. 10, Miss Laura Flack; room no. 11, Miss Ella McMahan; room no. 12, Mrs. Jennie Coates.